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## Obama to play up national security record at party meet

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Democratic Party will play up what it sees as President Barack Obama's shining national security credentials at its party convention next week, aides to the president said yesterday.

The party will "highlight the significant role President Obama's strong record on national security and veterans issues" during the convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, which runs from next Tuesday to Thursday, said Adam Fletcher, a campaign spokesman.

Fletcher cited Obama accomplishments such as "ending the war in Iraq responsibly, to refocusing on al-Qaeda and decimating its leadership, to taking care of our men and women in uniform when they return home."

He said these themes would be touched on throughout the week but especially on its last evening Thursday in an address by Senator John Kerry, a former presidential candidate and foreign policy heavyweight.

A Vietnam veteran who lost

to George W. Bush in 2004, Kerry is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations committee.

Kerry has been mentioned often as a possible successor to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton if Obama defeats Republican challenger Mitt Romney in the November 6 election.

Meanwhile, in Tampa, The Republican National Convention has been setting Twitter aflutter, with nominee Mitt Romney's wife Ann generating a large number of tweets.

The Twitter blog said Ann Romney, who addressed the gathering Tuesday, generated as much as 6,195 tweets per minute, with the biggest spike occurring when the candidate joined his wife on stage at the end of her speech.

"It wasn't just that Mrs. Romney's speech inspired a lot of conversation, but Twitter responded positively as well," wrote Twitter's Adam Sharp.

"Her Twitter Political Index score nearly doubled over the course of her speech, from 45 to 83 -- the biggest increase for any of the night's speakers."

## SVB-AOV introduced Flex Pension option



Gino Croes, Edwin Jacobs and Luis Tromp

Director of the SVB, Edwin Jacobs, was joined by Luis Tromp, Head of the Pension Department in announcing the implementation of a Flex-AOV, an elective option to postpone receiving pension payments, for greater rewards when they come due.

Laws were passed in parliament December of last year, which went into effect January 1 of this year. These allowed a plan for island residents reaching the age of 60, making them eligible for their government pension, to elect to delay payment. For each year they do so, an additional 7% will be added on to their normal monthly payment, beyond the usual pension limit, for up to five years.

Normal pension payments for a 60-year-old at full benefits are 1,057 Aruban florins monthly. Waiting until the age of 61 to begin collecting will increase these to 1,131 Aruban florins. If they continue to defer payments until the age of 65, they will then collect 1,482 Aruban florins monthly, an estimated 40.2% more than the limit of payments beginning at 60, which never increase.

Individuals who qualify for this plan, must apply at the SVB Pension office at Vondellaan 21 one month prior to their 60th birthday. If wishing to continue Flex-AOV for the full five years, they must reap-

ply every year, a month prior to their birthday.

The SVB realizes for many close to retirement age, the mandatory pension plan put in place last year which would supplement the social security, will have little or no positive financial benefit. It is believed the Flex-AOV will help compensate for this.

For more information and to inscribe for the Flex-AOV, eligible individuals are request



Edwin Jacobs

to visit the Vondellaan office, call 527-2760, or visit their website, www.svbaruba.org.

by Rosalie Klein



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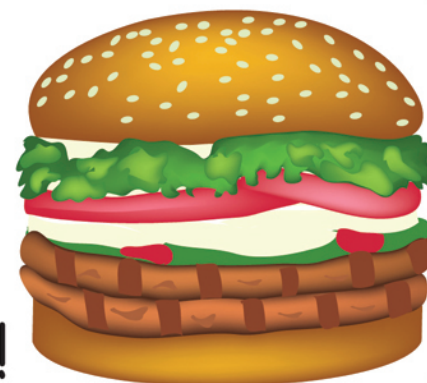
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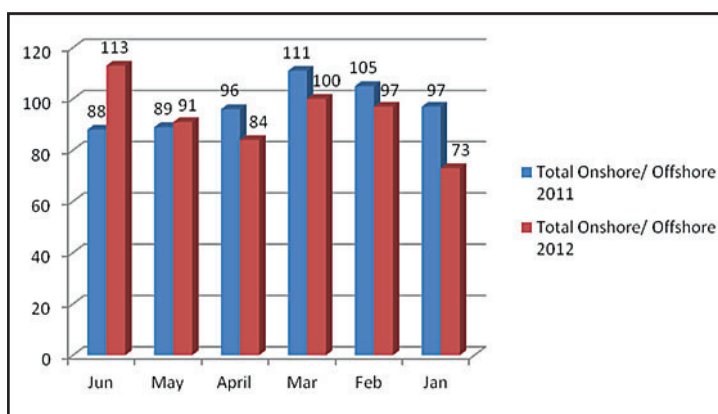
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## Chamber of Commerce registrations to June 2012



ORANJESTAD -- The registration of new businesses in the Commercial Registry of the Aruba Chamber of Commerce and Industry up to the month of June 2012 compared to that of the first six months of 2011 shows a reduction. In 2011 there were a total of 586 new businesses registered. This year, 2012, there were a total of 558 new businesses "onshore" and "offshore" registered between January and June, which represents a reduction of 4.8% compared to the same period of 2011.

A look at the "onshore" figures shows that there were 545 registrations, while last year this was 574 registrations during the same period, a reduction of 5%. There was some improvement, however, as we compare these figures with 2009, when registrations during the same period was

only 444 onshore businesses. That year was the lowest point in registrations in recent years. Reductions were noted primarily in the category of sole proprietorships which went from 370 last year to only 311 this year...a 15.9% reduction.

For NV, VBA and AVV businesses, we saw a considerable increase. In 2011, the amount was 182 and in 2012 that amount reached 222, thus an increase of 22%. There was a significant increase in the VBA type of business, which is the new legal form of business introduced in 2009. More and more entrepreneurs are finding this type of business structure very attractive. In the period indicated, this type of business went from a registration of 7 in 2011 to 49 this year...a 600% increase.

This increase more than

Registracion di empresa - 2010-2012

Registracion segun tipo di empresa	Q2 2012	Q1 2012	YTD 2012	Q2 2011	Q1 2011	2011	Q2 2010	Q1 2010	2010
<b>OFFSHORE</b>									
NV	0	5	5	0	1	2	0	1	2
AVV	3	4	7	2	3	7	2	3	6
VBA	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Otro	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal Offshore</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>ONSHORE</b>									
NV	92	79	171	96	79	366	96	79	362
AVV	1	1	2	0	0	3	0	0	2
VBA	27	22	49	7	0	35	7	0	18
Eenmanszaak	159	152	311	180	190	716	180	190	722
VOF	3	1	4	13	5	28	13	5	25
Otro	2	6	8	3	9	28	3	9	24
<b>Subtotal Onshore</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>1176</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>1153</b>
<b>Total Onshore/ Offshore</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>1185</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>1163</b>

compensated for the small drop in the amount of NV registrations (175 in 2011 and 171 in 2012).

The offshore sector in the period under analysis showed little change in the first half of 2011. There were 6 offshore companies registered and in 2012 up to now there are 13 in the January to May period. On the other hand cancellation of "offshore" businesses, the majority being AVV, continues a down side with 72 registrations cancelled in 2012 compared to 52 in 2011 during the same period. This shows that the "offshore" sector has maintained its negative bent and continues to become smaller and smaller every day. By the end of June 2012 there were a total of 1396 active offshore businesses registered, of which 228 are NV's. The accompanying index shows more detail.

These figures should serve as warnings to entrepreneurs who want to start new small businesses. While, those tending towards larger businesses such as NV or VBA will notice that the disposi-

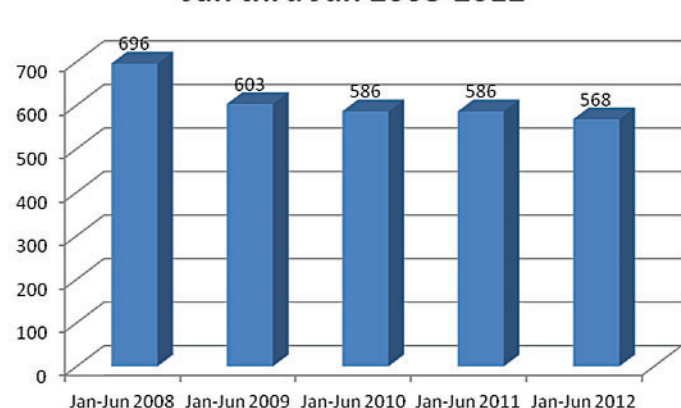
tion to start businesses in these categories have increased.

To gain a clear picture of the economic situation of the island, it is important to include other economic parameters. The figures published by Central Bank, as an example, are important indicators.

BBO (sales tax) showed a decrease of 2.3%.

Import tax receipts increased by 1.5%, while the category of tax on importation of excise duty increased by 12.1%. Income tax on salaries remained at the same level. In general we can conclude that the figures for the

**Total registrations onshore & offshore;**  
**Jan thru Jun 2008-2012**



Central Bank records an increase of 7.9% in total government receipts for the first four months of 2012 compared to 2011. During this period the total tax receipts increased by 6.9%, while the

first four months of 2012 indicate moderate economic growth although not reflected in the figures of the Chamber's new business registrations.

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## JCI Senators of the ASAC meet Aruba's Parliament



ORANJESTAD -- During the IV Encounter of JCI Senators of the ASAC, members paid a visit to president of Aruba's Parliament and were invited to a public meeting in the conference hall of the Parliament of Aruba.

The following members of Parliament were in attendance, namely, the AVP, MEP, PDR fractions and independent Parliamentarians, Marisol Lopez Tromp and Mervin Wyatt Ras.

President Paul Croes opened the meeting explaining how Parliament functions, our system of elections and the formation of Parliament and of the government of Aruba.

Croes also made reference to the system of political triad which exists on Aruba.

Present in the conference hall of Parliament were: Ray Braithwaite, President of the Association of Senators of the Americas and Caribbean (ASAC), who hails from Trinidad & Tobago; Jorge Rojas, outgoing president of ASAC (Colombia); Elva Angela, Secretary of ASAC, President of Senators of Aruba and director of the IV Encounter of ASAC; Humberto Mendoza, representative of Honduras; Indira Abath, representative of JCI National (NOM). Seated in the tribune

were the members of the 11 countries participating in the encounter.

ASAC President, Braithwaite explained to Parliament what are the goals of the organization, and that their goals are derived from the millennium goals of the UN. The theme for the year is "Returning Thanks." Braithwaite also placed emphasis on the protection of the environment and particularly the pollution of the ocean bed, as one of their focus.

Elva Angela shared information about what activities were organized for the delegates during their stay on the island. Abath (NOM) shared information on the national level and of their members increase drive and how they are intent on offering training to empower people in the community. This was paired with a video about JCI International.

After some Q and A, Humberto Mendoza of Honduras presented Paul Croes a token gift in the form of a key. Honduras, coincidentally participated with the largest delegation at this encounter.

ASAC President, Board



members, Senators and organizing committee were very pleased and grateful for the opportunity to participate in the

Parliament meeting and for the attention received from President Paul Croes and Parliament members.



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## Foundation Cas Animal congratulates Contreras Clinic

## Brazilian travel agents visit Aruba

**Contreras family**

Kirsten Arndt, founder of Cas Animal Foundation, which rescues abandoned dogs and cats off the streets, expresses felicitations to Contreras Veterinary Clinic, with offices in Shaba and Savaneta. The clinic founder Ricardo, celebrated with his team their 20th anniversary of serving the community. Without their kind collaboration over the past ten years, Cas Animal would not have been able to continue its work.

"There is no question that Contreras Clinic is a partner in helping us save so many distressed dogs from certain death," commented Kiki. This has been her mission in life since coming to Aruba 15 years ago. She takes in the stray, abandoned and abused dogs of the island. "Too many times people give up on a dog that is hurt or a bit sick, but the staff at Contreras is as determined as I am to rehabilitate these animals; I don't give up on them and neither do they." Kiki cares for over 70 dogs and puppies in her home, which she has converted into a no-kill shelter, while struggling to raise the funds for a proper facility on land she has already been awarded by the government.

Kiki also works with a

in Paradera, phone number 582-8382. Donations can be made directly to the foundation's account: Cas Animal Foundation, CMB Bank account # 25762110.

If you are not an island resident and wish to adopt a dog, or see one in distress, call Kiki at 742-8732 and she will assist in helping the dog and the process of transport to your home country, as it is much easier to return with an Aruban dog than any might think. They require examination and certification by a qualified vet

**The Team**

number of resorts to capture the cats that come to their premises and have them neutered. She will always try to find a good home for a stray animal, but cats often do well on their own, keeping the hotel grounds free of unwanted vermin. In these circumstances, neutering is best, then returning the cat to its comfort zone to do its job.

Her costs for feeding all the dogs she rescued and maintains in her shelter are astronomical, as well as her veterinary bills. If anyone wishes to help, they can support her with donations in the form of payment to the Cas Animal Foundation account at the Contreras Veterinary Clinics or to Animal Care Clinic

to pass health standards prior to departure; but since rabies is unheard of on Aruba, they can enter without a lengthy quarantine. Kiki will also help in obtaining a dog transport and getting them to the airport, if needed. Next week will feature a story with just such a happy ending.

Coming up on September 29 will be the annual Cas Animal fundraising golf tournament at Tierra Del Sol Country Club and Golf Course. Those wishing to participate to benefit a worthy cause can contact the TDS Golf Pro Adam Williamson at e-mail: tee-time@tierradelisol.com

by Rosalie Klein



Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority welcomed Brazilian travel agents to our island to see firsthand the diversity of amenities guaranteeing visitors a pleasant and relaxing vacation. Jasmine Maduro, representing of ATA, coordinated a tour for the group.

The travel agents stayed at the Mill Resort and transportation was provided by Fofoti Tours.

The agents inspected various resorts, went on a jeep tour with De Palm Tours and

enjoyed a sailing trip, courtesy of Red Sail Sport.

It was a memorable first trip for the agents and they were very surprised by all Aruba has to offer.

"Aruba is a very easy destination to sell compared to Cancun and Punta Arenas," they observed.

Aruba Tourism Authority extends a heartfelt 'thank you' to all the participating hotels, De Palm Tours and Red Sail Sports and especially The Mill and Fofoti Tours.



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## Caribbean Festival is tonight!



**SAN NICOLAS** -- Every Thursday evening, islanders flock to San Nicolas to enjoy the fabulous bargains and entertainment of the Caribbean Festival, a mix of Aruban and Caribbean traditions kept alive by the multi-cultural make up of Aruba's "Sunrise City."

Originally populated by the thousands that came from all over the Caribbean to work at the refinery, the town has savored and preserved the food, music and dance that many brought with them from their various regions. The festival, from 6:00 to 9:15 p.m., revels in the diverse background of San Nicolas, offering unique dishes and beverages, along with a full evening of island entertainment.

A full roster of some of Aruba's finest criollo entertainers follows including folkloric musical groups, dance groups solo singers, limbo dance by "Miguel Philips" and Carnival show by "Carna-Aruba," and this is only on the main stage!

Scattered throughout the main street of San Nicolas are performance areas surround by seating where you can settle in with an island snack or dinner, including music by steel pan and Brass band."

Island visitors can enjoy the Caribbean festival as part of a complete package available at all De Palm and concierge desks, which include transportation. You can customize your evening by purchasing with or without food and refreshments. A variety of local handicrafts are offered for sale and the event guarantees a good time for all, with an authentic introduction to the island experience.

## 80 Indians killed by Brazil miners in Venezuela

CARACAS (AFP) - A group that represents Yanomami communities charged yesterday that illegal Brazilian miners killed as many as 80 Yanomamis in the Venezuelan jungle last month.

"On July 5, garimpeiros (illegal miners) burned down a communal hut where about 80 people lived" in the Irotatheri community in a remote area near the border with Brazil, Luis Ahiwei, secretary general of the group HOY told AFP.

Unidentified and charred

corpses were discovered at the site by three members of the community who had been out hunting at the time of the attack, Ahiwei said, alleging that at one point the miners used helicopters to carry out the attack.

HOY, which represents hundreds of Yanomami communities, has reported the purported killings to prosecutors and asked the governments of Brazil and Venezuela to create a bilateral commission to investigate.

## Judge sets December hearing on Samsung phone ban

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - The judge in the landmark Apple-Samsung case set a December 6 hearing on punitive damages to the US firm for patent infringement and on whether to ban eight Samsung phones in the US market.

Judge Lucy Koh said in an order yesterday she would bypass proceedings on preliminary injunction and go directly to Apple's request for a permanent ban on sales of certain phones by the South Korean electronics giant.

The December 6 hearing will also include debate on whether to triple the jury award of over \$1 billion.

Because the jury last week found that Samsung "willfully" infringed on Apple patents for its iconic iPhone, the judge may triple the award as a punitive measure.

Apple has asked the court to ban some of the newer 4G phones from Samsung's Galaxy line as well as the Droid Charge sold through Verizon.



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## Ecuador, Britain pledge diplomatic route to Assange solution

LONDON (AFP) - Ecuador's vice-president and Britain's foreign minister pledged yesterday to pursue a diplomatic solution to the standoff over the WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange.

Foreign Secretary William Hague hosted Vice-President Lenin Moreno for what were described as "amicable" talks at the Foreign Office in London ahead of the opening ceremony of the Paralympics.

The two men "confirmed the UK and Ecuador's commitment to dialogue to find a diplomatic situation to the matter" of Assange, who has been granted political asylum by Ecuador after entering its embassy in London.

A Foreign Office spokesman declined to give further details of the talks.

Ecuador was angered by what it saw as Britain's threat

to enter the embassy and arrest Assange, who is wanted for questioning in Sweden over alleged sex crimes.

But London insisted it never threatened to enter the building and merely made the Ecuadoran government aware of the existence of a law which would allow it to do so.

Britain has said Assange will be arrested if he sets foot outside the embassy, and extradited to Sweden under the terms of a European Arrest Warrant.

Assange says he fears he will eventually be extradited to the United States.

WikiLeaks angered Washington by releasing tens of thousands of classified files about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as US diplomatic cables which gave often unflattering views of world leaders.



**BARPETA : An Indian resident salvages valuables in the remains of her house burnt by rioters in Kharabari Charak Math village at Barpeta district, some 170km from Guwahati on August 29, 2012. Violence in Assam has spilled over to the neighbouring Barpeta district as a rally by members of the All Assam Minority Students' Union (AAMSU) turned violent killing one person and burning down five houses. (AFP PHOTO)**

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### US military says WikiLeaks suspect broke rules before

FORT MEADE (AFP) - US military lawyers said yesterday that Bradley Manning, the soldier accused of passing a trove of secret documents to WikiLeaks, had breached security before and knew he was breaking the law.

A pre-trial hearing for Manning, 24, who could be jailed for life if he is convicted of committing the biggest intelligence breach in American history, heard that he made an unauthorized YouTube video for his family in 2008.

He used the terms "classified" and "top secret" in that video but he was caught and received corrective training for breaking military rules, said prosecutors, who want to put

the video before jurors at Manning's trial.

Manning's punishment for the YouTube video included having to present a power point presentation in which he explained what amounted to classified information and what would constitute a security breach.

The military says the information proves that Manning was fully aware of the consequences when he released a huge cache of diplomatic cables and military logs to WikiLeaks. His defense has denied the soldier knowingly aided the enemy.

Manning is alleged to have provided WikiLeaks with the haul of documents several months before he was eventually tracked down and arrested in 2010 while serving in Iraq.

"The intent behind the two acts is sufficiently similar -- wilful and was damaging to the interests of the United States," said Captain Angel Overgaard at the pre-trial hear-

ing taking place at a military base in Maryland.

The publishing by WikiLeaks of the official documents triggered a diplomatic firestorm that hugely embarrassed American officials who were left to deal with the fallout and the disclosures also rankled key US allies.

Manning's defense argued at the hearing that making the YouTube video and the power point slides available to the jury would prejudice the former intelligence analyst's right to a fair trial.

But the military says the specific punishment Manning received shows that he could have been "aiding the enemy" and gives an insight into his character before the subsequent leak of classified documents to WikiLeaks.

Manning, who is attending this week's hearing, has not yet entered a plea in the case and his trial is penciled in to start in February -- five months later than originally planned.

### Hijacked tanker with 24 Russian crew spotted off Nigeria

LAGOS (AFP) - A tanker hijacked off West Africa with 24 Russian crew on board was spotted near Nigeria yesterday, officials said, after an attack that saw pirates exchange fire with security forces.

"We are making frantic efforts to establish communications with them," said Kabir Aliyu, a spokesman for Nigeria's navy, after Tuesday's hijacking of the Greek-owned oil tanker off nearby Togo.

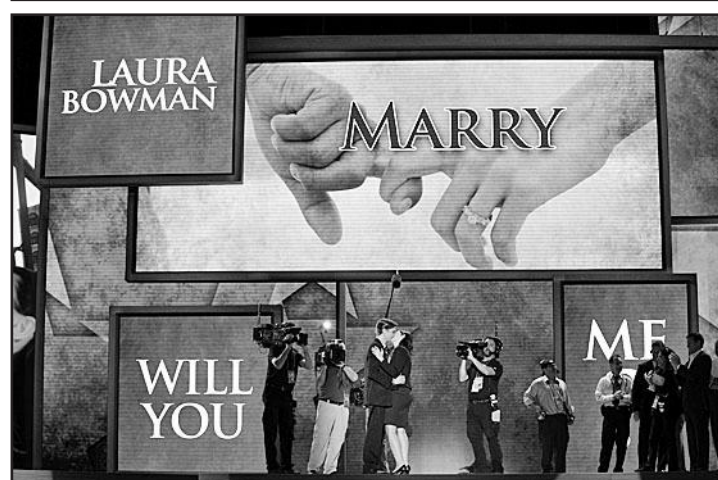
"As of this morning about 8:30 am, it was 62 nautical miles south from Lagos, but so far no communication with them up till now."

A Togolese military spokesman also said the ship had been spotted off Nigeria.

Early Tuesday, pirates exchanged fire with security forces and hijacked the Energy Centurion in the latest attack in the region, the International Maritime Bureau said.

The Isle of Man-flagged vessel, which was carrying gas oil, was seized 17 miles off the coast of the Togolese capital Lome, where it had reportedly been anchored, said Noel Choong, head of the IMB's piracy reporting centre.

The hijackers exchanged fire with a Togo navy patrol boat that answered a distress call but managed to elude the patrol by steaming off aboard the tanker, Choong said.



**TAMPA: Bradley Thompson (L) and Laura Bowman (R) hug after Thompson proposed to Bowman on the stage as large background screens show his question at the Tampa Bay Times Forum in Tampa, Florida, yesterday during the Republican National Convention. Thompson is production manager and Bowman is a production co-ordinator for the convention. (AFP PHOTO)**

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Mainstreet Downtown Aruba

## Hurricane Isaac batters New Orleans, weakens to tropical storm



**NEW ORLEANS : A fallen tree is positioned in front of a house in New Orleans, Louisiana on August 29, 2012. (AFP PHOTO)**

NEW ORLEANS (AFP) - Hurricane Isaac pounded New Orleans with fierce winds and torrents of rain yesterday, but the multi-billion dollar flood defenses built after Katrina swamped the city seven years ago held firm.

Isaac was downgraded from a hurricane to a tropical storm, but officials warned that heavy rain would continue overnight and even into Friday, as the swirling vortex of cloud and storm-force winds was moving only slowly.

And an upbeat damage assessment from the Army Corps of Engineers was surely little consolation for those whose homes were submerged or left without power and those who

were or forced to wait on roofs or in attics for rescue.

Storm water did gush over at least one levee on a lip of land that sticks out into the Gulf of Mexico, in an area away from the city outside the ring of levees and pumping stations built after the 2005 Hurricane Katrina.

Louisiana governor Bobby Jindal said the hurricane made landfall twice and is moving so slowly the state will probably be in for 12 to 16 inches of rain through Friday and up to 20 inches in some areas.

Isaac may wind up causing as much as \$2.5 billion in economic damage in and around Louisiana and in the offshore oil sector in the Gulf of Mexico,

according to early estimates from natural disaster modeler Egecat.

As residents cowered in their homes, Isaac rolled slowly over Louisiana, dumping huge quantities of rain on a city known -- at least until Katrina -- for its love of jazz, great food and easy-going lifestyle.

More than half a million people were left without power after the hurricane, packing winds of 80 miles (130 kilometers) per hour, snapped utility poles and downed power lines.

The National Hurricane Center said the category one storm had forced a "dangerous storm surge" onto the northern Gulf Coast, with waters mounting to 11 feet (three meters) in Louisiana and patches of coastal flooding.

Still, the flood defenses built around New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina held up under the battering, the US Army Corps of Engineers said.

The flood control system is "performing as designed. We are confident in the system," the corps said in a statement.

The Corps rebuilt the 133-mile system of levees, pump

stations, floodwalls and surge barriers that surround New Orleans after levees failed during Katrina, seven years to the day, swamping the city. An elaborate \$14.4 billion (11.5 billion euro) overhaul is still underway.

But storm-driven waters spilled over a levee south of New Orleans and inundated a residential area that had been ordered evacuated.

The flooding in Plaquemines Parish, part of a tongue of land extending into the Gulf of Mexico south of New Orleans, saw water deluge over a levee on the east bank of that strip.

The water pressure on the barrage remains so strong that engineers are considering puncturing it to release some of the water.

A total of 112 people at a nursing home, many in wheelchairs, were evacuated, the governor said.

Plaquemines Parish president Billy Nungesser said damage from Isaac in some areas was worse than that wrought by Katrina. He cited his home as an example.

About 65 people were stranded in Plaquemines, offi-

cials said.

About 350 people were crammed into three emergency shelters in Plaquemines and officials were working on opening a fourth.

Elsewhere in the city powerful winds knocked over trees and ripped down power lines, leaving some 610,000 people without power, according to Entergy Louisiana, a local utility.

More than 4,000 members of the Louisiana National Guard had been mobilized, with 48 boat teams deployed around New Orleans.

US President Barack Obama said yesterday his government was doing everything it could to help victims of Hurricane Isaac, which caused widespread damage and flooding.

"Our thoughts are with you. Our prayers are with you," Obama said in a message to the people of the Gulf Coast delivered at the start of a re-election campaign rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.

"We are doing every single thing that we need to do to ensure the folks down there are taken care of," Obama said.



**Bay St. Louis fireman, David Stefano, reacts as he and other first responders use an airboat to reach a house fire Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2012. Isaac's rainfall flooded a number of streets in this Bay St. Louis subdivision, preventing firemen from responding quickly to the fire that destroyed a house.**



**Waves break over the shoreline of Lake Pontchartrain**



## Health & Living

# Europe rights court condemns Italy ban on embryo testing



Thai experts perform in-vitro fertilization at the Jetanin Institute in Bangkok in 2006.

ROME (AFP) - The European rights court Tuesday condemned Italy for its ban on screening embryos for genetic conditions, saying its laws leave couples wanting to avoid passing on diseases little room for manoeuvre.

The condemnation from the European Court of Human Rights relates to the case of an Italian couple, both carriers of cystic fibrosis, who were blocked from using in vitro fertilization (IVF) to select

embryos that were not affected by the condition.

According to the Strasbourg-based court, the case highlights "the incoherence of the Italian legislative system that bans the implantation of only healthy embryos while allowing the abortion of foetuses with genetic conditions."

The law "only gives the plaintiffs one option, full of anxiety and suffering," said the court. "Get pregnant naturally and then abort when a

prenatal examination shows the foetus is affected" with a condition, ECHR said in a statement.

The Italian couple chose to abort their second child in 2010 after learning that their unborn foetus had the condition.

They then requested IVF treatment so doctors could check for traces of cystic fibrosis before going ahead with a new pregnancy, a process known as pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) which is illegal in Italy.

Italy argues that its laws protect the health of women and children and discourage deliberate genetic alteration that critics of PGD worry would lead to so-called "designer babies".

The ECHR awarded 15,000 euros in damages to the couple but rejected a further claim of discrimination.

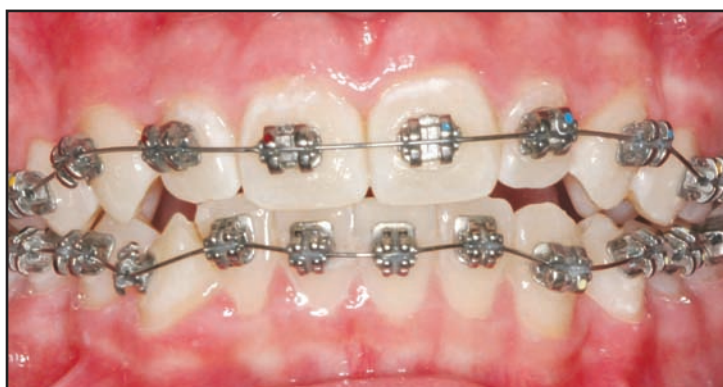
Of 32 Council of Europe member states examined, only Italy, Austria and Switzerland ban PGD testing, the court said.

## Man sues orthodontist .....

OREGON - Devin Bost, 22, filed a lawsuit against orthodontist Brad Chvatal, D.M.D., complaining of permanent tooth, mouth and gum injuries sustained from having braces from age 7 all the way through to 18.

According to The Oregonian, the complaint was filed Friday in Multnomah County circuit court and seeks \$150,000 for pain and suffering, plus \$35,100 for what Bost's attorney - David Hollander - says his client has paid in corrective oral surgery and similar expenses.

Kids typically wear braces for only 1 to 3 years, says Dr. John F. Buzzatto, president of the American Association of Orthodontists, which, according to him, is the oldest and largest dental specialty organ-



ization in the world.

Buzzatto said there can be situations where a patient might need extended treatment: A patient might have impacted teeth, say, or an over-developed lower jaw, or might move away from his orthodontist and "disappear for five or six years."

Still, for somebody to wear braces 11 years would be "ex-

tremely unusual," Buzzatto said.

Chvatal, contacted by ABC News, said that privacy rules under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act and doctor-patient confidentiality prevent his discussing the details of the case, but that it was "very complicated."

He and Bost's previous orthodontist tried to give Bost "the best result we possibly could," he said.

The American Association of Orthodontics recommends that children visit the orthodontist for a check-up no later than 7. Most patients begin treatment between 9 and 14. People who need braces typically wear them for one to three years, American Association of Orthodontists president Dr. John F. Buzzatto told CBS station KIRO in Seattle.



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### Health Tip:

### Avoid Contracting Pneumonia

Pneumonia is a bacterial or viral respiratory infection that's characterized by lung inflammation. It can be life-threatening, especially to the young, the elderly and to people with chronic health problems.

The University of Maryland Medical Center suggests how to help prevent pneumonia:

- Wash your hands often, especially after you use the toilet, change a diaper, prepare or eat food, or blow your nose.
- Don't smoke.
- Get vaccinated for pneumonia and flu.
- Children also should get an Hib vaccine.
- In some children younger than 24 months, the drug palivizumab may be prescribed to help avoid pneumonia as a complication from another respiratory condition.

## Australian surfer in bloody shark attack

SYDNEY (AFP) - A surfer has been savaged by a shark off a remote west Australian beach in the sixth serious incident in the state in less than a year, with witnesses Wednesday telling of water "full of blood".

The man, reported to be in his 30s, was bitten on the abdomen and suffered severe injuries to his right arm while trying to fend off the shark at far-flung Red Bluff -- a popular surf spot about 1,000 kilometres (600 miles) north of Perth.

A fellow surfer dragged the man onto his board and brought him ashore after Tuesday afternoon's attack, with witnesses recounting gruesome scenes.

Surfing instructor Josh Palmateer said the man was lucky to survive the "pretty brutal" attack.

The man was wrapped in towels to stem blood loss and driven almost two hours on unpaved roads to a waiting ambulance, according to Caldwell's husband Jim, the local campground manager.

It is the sixth serious attack off Australia's west coast in less than a year, with a fatality north of Perth last month -- the fifth in less than 12 months -- renewing debate about whether great whites should remain protected.

Most fatal attacks in the region involve great whites, among the largest shark species in the world and made famous by the horror movie "Jaws".

There were also calls after the latest attack for the Western Australian state government to consider installing shark nets at its beaches to protect the public.



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## Hawking defying science to open the Games



LONDON (AFP) - When Stephen Hawking was diagnosed with motor neurone disease aged 21, he was given just a few years to live, but on Wednesday the scientist was to help open the Paralympics at the age of 70.

Despite spending most of his life in a wheelchair and able to speak only through a computer, the British theoretical physicist's quest for the secrets of the universe has made him arguably the most famous scientist in the world.

"I'm sure my disability has a bearing on why I'm well known," Hawking once said. "People are fascinated by the contrast between my very limited physical powers, and the vast nature of the universe I deal with."

Hawking was to make a rare public appearance in the Olympic Stadium to narrate the opening ceremony, giving star power to an event which brings the curtain up on the highest-profile festival of sport for the disabled in history.

His life's work has focused on the basic laws which govern the universe.

Much of his study has involved bringing together relativity (the nature of space and time) and quantum theory (how the smallest particles in the universe behave) to explain the creation of the universe and how it is governed.

In 1974, aged just 32, he became one of the youngest fel-

lows of Britain's prestigious Royal Society.

Five years later he took the post of Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University, a post once held by Isaac Newton.

His fame moved beyond the world of academia in 1988 with the publication of his book "A Brief History of Time", which explained the nature of the universe to non-scientists, and sold millions of copies.

Hawking's stardom was cemented in cameos in "Star Trek" and "The Simpsons", where he tells the rotund Homer Simpson that he likes his theory of a "doughnut-shaped universe" so much that he might have to steal it.

Hawking was just 21 when he was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a form of motor neurone disease that attacks the nerves controlling voluntary movement.

## Sci-Tech

### US withheld email evidence in WikiLeaks case: defense

FORT MEADE (AFP) - Lawyers for the US soldier charged with passing a trove of classified documents to WikiLeaks accused the military Tuesday of withholding hundreds of emails over fears of a publicity nightmare.

The defense team for Private Bradley Manning, who could be jailed for life for "aiding the enemy" over the massive security breach, alleged that more than 1,300 messages were ignored by prosecutors for at least six months.

The emails relate to the conditions that the 24-year-old trooper was held in military detention at Quantico, Virginia, where he was sent after a spell in a US Army jail in Kuwait following his arrest when on duty in Iraq in 2010.

The government "chose to let these emails collect dust somewhere," Coombs said on the first day of the three-day hearing at a military base in Fort Meade, Maryland, 30 miles (48 kilometers) from the US capital.

The 84 emails were eventually released to the defense on July 25 last year, the court heard, but military prosecutors then announced that 600 other messages were given to Manning's legal team on Monday, ahead of the hearing.

The soldier's lawyers argue that Manning, who was an intelligence analyst in the army, was mistreated at Quantico, and even alleged Tuesday that he had been ordered by guards to stand at attention while completely naked.

Coombs then took aim at

top Marine officers responsible for running the jail, who he said had put their concerns about bad publicity ahead of their duty to provide fair treatment to Manning.

The emails go as high up the chain as General George Flynn, the then commanding general of the US Marine Corps, who had insisted that Manning be placed on suicide watch, according to Coombs.

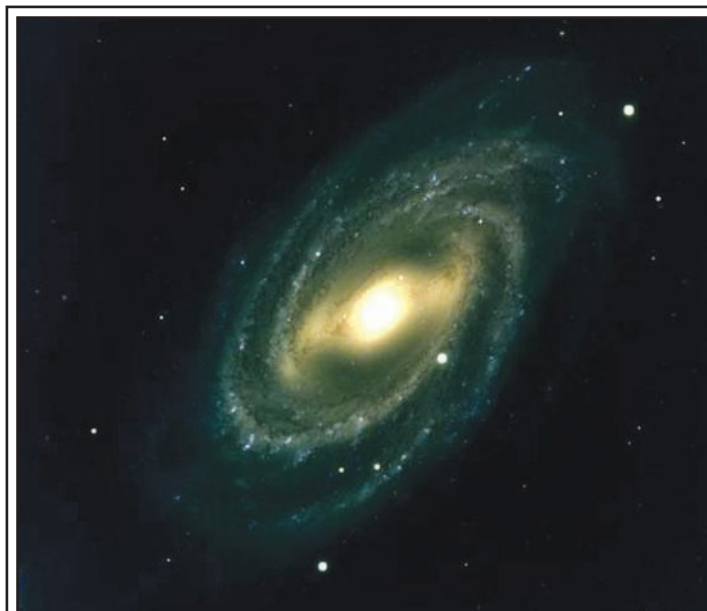
Top officers at Quantico regularly sent emails to Flynn informing him of Manning's detention conditions, which the defense says were unnecessarily harsh, and told the Marine commander who was visiting the jailed WikiLeaks suspect.

The military "kept Manning in maximum POI (prevention of injury)" custody "because they didn't want any negative publicity," Coombs said, reading out a document that placed media risks at the top of eight concerns at Quantico.

After his detention at Quantico from July 2010 to April 2011, Manning was transferred to a prison at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas, where he was placed under less restrictive conditions.

If the court finds he was abused, the case could potentially be thrown out, or any eventual sentence reduced.

However, military counsel at Fort Meade denied the allegations and said the emails amounted to nothing more than "argument and conjecture" among the military commanders handling Manning's detention.



One of the first images captured by the Discovery Channel Telescope in Arizona shows the barred spiral galaxy M109. The privately funded observatory took its first photos in May 2012.

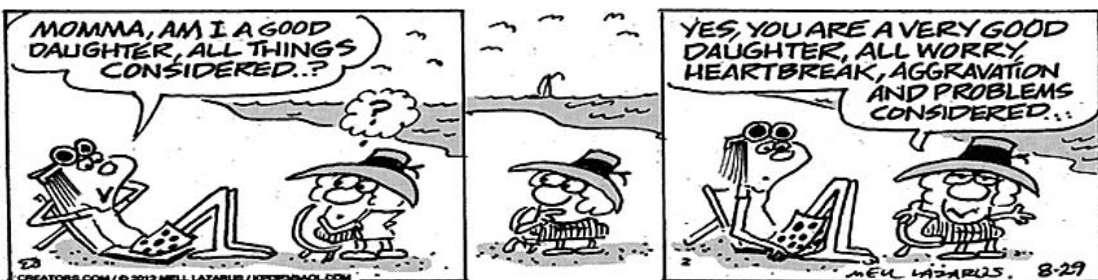


## COMICS

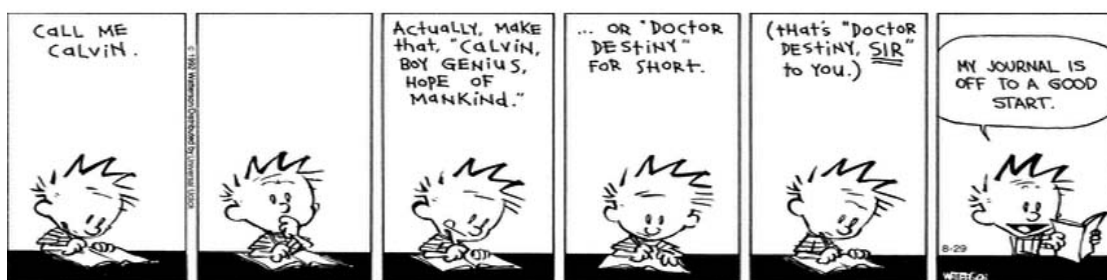
## PICKLES



## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBS



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## ACROSS

1. Pan for gold
5. Hand holder?
8. Restaurant reading
12. Repute
13. Elle, in Manhattan
14. Pivot
15. Mrs. Nick Charles
16. "Dewey Defeats Truman," e.g.
18. Winter toys
20. Book of sayings
21. Actor Ross
22. Radiator's output
24. RR depot
26. Cinematic rabble-rouser Norma

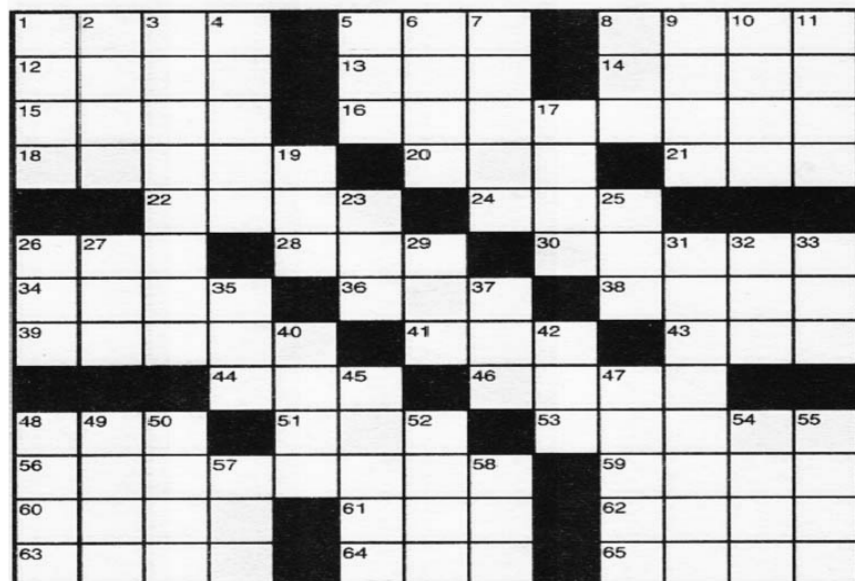
28. Shoulder broadener
30. Upper sky regions
34. Archaic expletive
36. Type of roast
38. Before cast or vise
39. Cover girl, e.g.
41. Daughter of Hyperion
43. Electric guitar adjunct
44. Nail a crook
46. Hairless
48. Station break filler
51. Once named
53. Of the cheekbone
56. Tantrum throwers
59. Second to \_\_\_\_

60. "Rubáiyát" poet Khayyám
61. Brief plunge
62. French play part
63. Cravings
64. Swinecote
65. Swerve

## DOWN

1. Turgenev's "Fathers and \_\_\_\_"
2. Swoon causer
3. Furrowed facial part
4. Field of business
5. Fireplace residue
6. Daughter of Uranus and Gaea

7. Resources
8. Bad: Sp.
9. Go out
10. Number of Dvorak symphonies
11. Manipulated
17. Gig
19. Stupid person
23. Pitch
25. Business envelope abbr.
26. Sleep stage: abbr.
27. In the past
29. Craps cube
31. Wrestling hold
32. "Nightmare" street
33. Fabric for ties
35. Recliner's place, often
37. Chin-length 'do
40. Freeway section
42. Yosemite \_\_\_\_ of cartoons
45. Jewelry strand
47. Turner et al.
48. Sailor's call
49. Capitol feature
50. Getz of jazz
52. Ready copy
54. Opposer
55. Critic Rex
57. Time periods: abbr.
58. "The \_\_\_\_ Who Loved Me"



## FROM THE TOP

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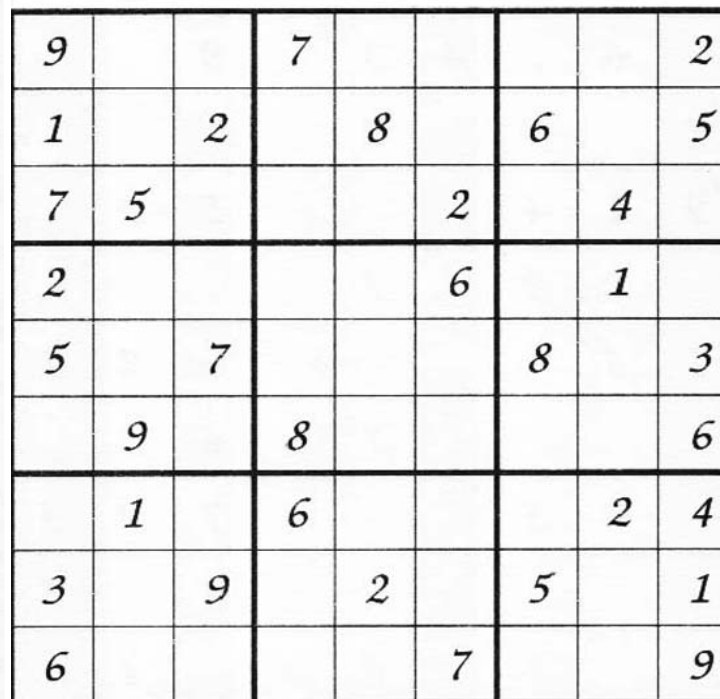
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## Sudoku



SOLUTIONS

6	8	5	4	3	1	7	2	9
1	9	5	8	2	7	6	4	3
7	2	4	6	5	9	3	1	8
9	5	2	1	8	3	6	7	4
5	6	8	1	7	2	4	9	3
4	1	7	9	6	5	3	8	2
8	7	6	2	1	5	9	3	4
3	4	9	7	8	6	2	1	5
2	3	1	5	9	4	8	7	6

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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## Citigroup to pay \$590 million to settle investor suit

NEW YORK (AFP) - Citigroup said yesterday it had agreed to pay \$590 million to settle a suit by investors who accused the bank of misleading them on its subprime mortgage-based security losses in 2007-2008.

The agreement settled the four-year-old class-action suit that arose from the collapse of the US real estate market, which savaged the bank's share price in part due to its heavy losses on collateralized debt obligations.

Investors who bought Citigroup shares between February 2007 and April 2008 accused the company of hiding its exposure to the CDO market, so they took heavy losses when it became public and the bank's shares plummeted in value.

Citigroup denied the

charges, but said it was agreeing to settle the lawsuit to avoid any more legal costs.

The suit said Citigroup masked losses on its holdings of CDOs in 2006 and 2007 as the property market was collapsing.

That helped keep its share price high, above \$47 in October 2007, before it plunged to below \$2.00 in early 2009 after some \$50 billion in asset write-downs.

The settlement only co-

vered a subset of the group of investors who originally sued. The suit previously included investors claiming losses between January 2004 and January 2009, but the claims outside those included in yesterday's settlement were dismissed by the judge.

New York law firm Kirby McInerney LLP, which represented investors in the suit, called the settlement "a significant recovery relating to the subprime/credit crisis."

## Fed report; US economy growing 'gradually'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US economy is growing slowly amid slight improvements in retail sales and the depressed housing market, while hiring held steady, the Federal Reserve said in a report yesterday.

"Economic activity continued to expand gradually in July and early August across most regions and sectors," the Fed said in its Beige Book, a key report on current regional economic conditions.

Retail sales strengthened "somewhat" in July compared with softness in May and June, particularly at discount stores and online.

By contrast, the pace of

auto sales also slowed "somewhat," but the Fed noted that it remained significantly above a year ago.

The ravaged housing market was showing signs of improvement six years after a price bubble collapsed.

"All 12 of the Fed's districts cited increases in home sales, home prices, or housing construction" in July and early August, it said.

Employment was stable or "growing only slightly," with manufacturers continuing to hire in almost all districts, the central bank said.

Upward wage pressure across the nation was "very contained."

**Daily Exchange Rates**

Current as of: 08/29/2012

Currency	Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.78	1.80	1.82
Britain	GBP	2.76	2.81	2.87
Switzerland	CHF	185.85	186.57	187.37
Netherlands	EUR	221.41	223.43	225.68
Sweden	SEK	25.81	26.53	27.33
Denmark	DKK	29.02	29.74	30.54
Norway	NOK	29.59	30.31	31.11
Japan	JPY	224.49	226.54	228.81

(per 10,000)

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## Finance

### Aruba monetary policy for August 2012

ORANJESTAD -- During its meeting of August 10, 2012, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)2 of the Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) decided, after reviewing the most recent economic and monetary data, to leave the reserve requirement rate (11 percent) and the advance rate (1 percent) unchanged. One of the main considerations for this policy stance is that the net foreign assets (including revaluation differences of gold and foreign exchange holdings), despite a 13.3 percent decrease in June 2012 compared to December 2011, remained at an adequate level when benchmarked against the GDP and money supply, as well as the number of months of current account payments covered by the net foreign assets. In addition,

the current outlook for these reserves show an average increase of 7.9 percent at year-end. Also, the end of period inflation rate for June eased to 0.9 percent, while the inflation rate excluding the food and energy components (the core-inflation) stood at -0.2 percent. On the credit granting side, business loans grew by 2.7 percent, while loans to individuals increased by 0.6 percent compared to the previous month. Consequently, domestic credit increased by 1.6 percent compared to the month before.

The CBA will continue to closely follow the developments in the economic and monetary fundamentals. The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled for September 17, 2012.

**LESTREM:** A gas station attendant changes the price of fuel in Lestrem, northern France, on August 29, 2012. Finance Minister Pierre Moscovici said that France, which is struggling to bring its deficit back within EU limits, would spend 300 million euros to temporarily cut pump prices for motorists.

"Pump prices will drop up to six cents, three for fuel companies and three for the state," he said following a meeting with fuel companies.



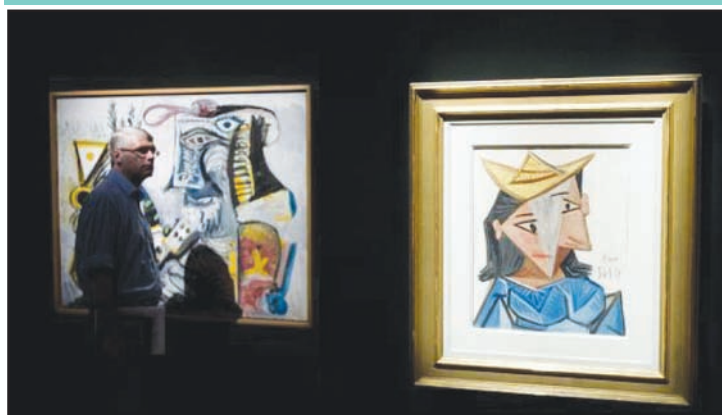
(AFP PHOTO)

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer





## Picasso, Duchamp in first ever face-off in Stockholm



Picasso

STOCKHOLM (AFP) - Stockholm's Museum of Modern Art is pitting Pablo Picasso and Marcel Duchamp, two of the 20th century's modernist greats, against each other in a new exhibition opposing their contrasting approaches to art.

"Picasso/Duchamp: He was wrong" opened Saturday, the title based on Picasso's reputed laconic remark on learning of Duchamp's death in 1968.

The exhibition is a "theatrical" posthumous meeting of the two greats, museum curator Daniel Birnbaum said of the pair who each had a famous dislike for the other's works and who never met.

The Moderna Museet has a fine collection of works by the two influential artists often described as rivals and incompatible, with Picasso the prolific painter and Duchamp the conceptual creator who challenged painting as an art form.

The first room of the exhibition is a large hall adorned with giant portraits of the two

artists facing each other: Picasso with a bull mask covering his head in an Edward Quinn photograph, and Duchamp with his face covered in shaving cream and tufts of hair protruding like horns, shot by Man Ray.

Also in the room, Picasso's 1912 collage "Bottle, Glass and Violin" faces off against Duchamp's "Bicycle Wheel" from 1913.

It's the only room where their work is shown together and it is meant to link their universes, which visitors then view separately, choosing to go left to see the works of Duchamp and to the right for Picasso.

Picasso churned out paintings over a career spanning seven decades, while the more humble Duchamp prided himself on a small body of work,

delivering just 13 "ready-mades" over four decades.

The two giants began their careers around the same time, had the same patrons, and sometimes the same supporters and admirers. What divided them was their way of getting their message across, according to Jones.

The exhibition features Picasso's 1941 masterpiece "Woman with Blue Collar" and more than a hundred of his other works, most of them belonging to the museum's own collection but some on loan, his shocks of colour and etchings hung in a number of



Marcel Duchamp - Portrait of Chess Players- 1911

small and intimate, inviting rooms.

Meanwhile two large, airy rooms are reserved for Duchamp's 20 conceptual installations, with "Large Glass" and "Fountain" as centre-pieces, perhaps more difficult for the visitor to grasp.



**BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Argentine Cristian Sosa and Uruguayan Maria Noel Sciuto won the stage tango competition Tuesday at the tenth World Tango Championship.** "Our goal is, first and foremost, to work well as a couple," Sosa said just ahead of the duo's performance before an audience of 8,000 spectators at the Luna Park stadium central Buenos Aires. After their victory was announced, the pair, both 25, danced to the sound of applause from a visibly moved crowd. Twenty couples competed for the win in the category. The genre is more flashy and acrobatic than traditional ballroom tango. On Monday, Argentine couple Facundo de la Cruz, 26, and Paola Sanz, 29, beat out 42 international pairs in the traditional ballroom tango competition. UNESCO added Tango to its world heritage list of intangible treasures in 2009, and a half million people, including some 70,000 foreigners, attended this year's competition, according to organizers. The initial field boasted 487 pairs of dancers from 32 countries.

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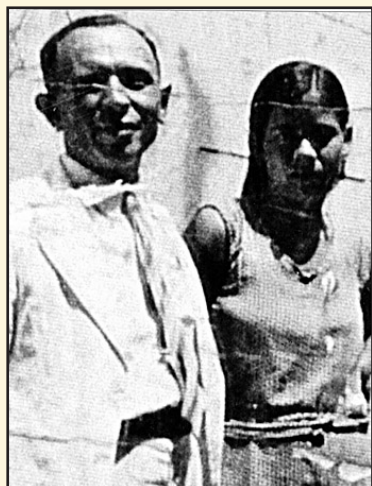
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**NEW DELHI (AFP) - An overwhelming majority of Indians prefer marriages arranged by family members instead of "love matches", a survey showed Wednesday, despite rapid social change in the country over recent decades.** A total of 74 percent of respondents from across India voted in favour of traditional "arranged" marriages, according to the poll by private television channel NDTV. The channel commissioned Ipsos, a market research agency, to conduct a field survey of 30,000 people of all ages across 18 states. Parents in India often choose husbands or wives for their children, although the trend for "love marriages" has grown during India's economic transformation.



## La Linda Department Store-where Aruba shops!



**Calman and Anna Hochman**

Though Aruba has its share of designer brand stores and shopping malls, ask almost any islander where they shop, and they will likely tell you "La Linda." Spread out over several specialty stores on the Caya Betico Croes, La Linda was Aruba's first and foremost department stores, where, for decades, one could find anything and everything, and after more than 70 years, still can make that claim.

It is also a distinctly family operation, with the personal touch and supervision of the Hochmans, who take their reputation for stocking "the best quality for the best price" very seriously. It all started with Calman Hochman, a Jewish Polish immi-

honest service.

To this day, La Linda is particularly known for its huge fabrics and notions department, the first destination for many on an island where making your own clothes is still an everyday practice. Without question, the store offers the greatest diversity of selection in nearly every department, and they have now consolidated them all into one store; four floors containing a wealth of choices in clothing for men, women and children, house wares, bedding, sporting goods, luggage, shoes, jewelry, deco-

work in progress," asserts Jalme, as they continue to renovate and enlarge what had been only the men's store and warehouse in the past. Normally closed for a 2 hour lunch/siesta in the old island way, shoppers will soon find it open daily for the entire day, from 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM, as they are on Saturday's, with a bright, charming eatery installed on the top floor.

La Linda is continually expanding their inventory, with their acquisitions department continually seeking out interesting, unique, and mo-



**Comfortable lounges for companions while shopping a vast selection**

native items and more.

"The present store is a

derately priced goods from all over the world, always with an eye towards quality. They pay particular attention to their Women's Department specializing in over-sized garments, stocking larger sizes exhibiting distinctive dash and style.

For travelers who have perhaps lost their luggage, they can offer a quick fix for all the family which won't break your budget, including some very stylish new suitcases.

A visit to La Linda and perusal of their interesting collection will make anyone understand why it has remained successful all these decades, and is still Aruba's favorite place to shop!



**Unique, quality goods in all departments**

grant who opened his first small shop with his Aruban wife Anna, carrying "a little bit of everything that anyone could need." This was before WWII, when the present head of the company, Jaime, hadn't even been born yet. Many of their sales help have also been with the store for over two decades, and "it is very much like family here," he admits. Their loyal patrons also look forward to being helped by shop girls who have become friends, knowing they will get great and



**Cheerful and Charming coffee shop to come**

## Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



**Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef**



**Keshi Yena with plaintains, vegetables and pica**

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varella Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine: The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Stew, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena -"Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of

Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses range from \$14 for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to \$18 for shrimp and \$20 for a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin range from \$12 to \$16, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local. They are open from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!



## SPORTS

## Tennis: Azarenka, Ferrer advance at US Open



NEW YORK (AFP) - World No. 1 Victoria Azarenka and Spanish fourth seed David Ferrer advanced at the US Open with straight-set victories on Wednesday at the season's final Grand Slam event.

Azarenka reached the third round by defeating Belgian qualifier Kirsten Flipkens 6-2, 6-2 in only 65 minutes at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Reigning Australian Open champion Azarenka, who has reached the last eight in every Grand Slam event except the US Open, will next face Chinese 28th seed Zheng Jie, who beat Slovakian qualifier Magdalena Rybarikova 6-3, 6-1.

The 23-year-old from Belarus, whose 26-match win streak to begin the season was the best women's start since 1997, seeks her 13th career title and fifth trophy of the

year on the Flushing Meadows hardcourts.

David Ferrer, whose best Grand Slam showing was a 2007 US Open semi-final run, booked a second-round match against Dutch qualifier Igor Sijsling, who beat Spain's



Daniel Gimeno-Traver 7-5, 6-3, 6-4.

Only World No. 1 Roger Federer has won more titles this year than Ferrer, whose crowns include Auckland, Acapulco, Buenos Aires, s-Hertogenbosch and Bastad.

America's Brian Baker, who lost six years of his career to an assortment of injuries, reached the second round with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Czech Jan Hajek.

Baker, who reached the second round of the French Open and fourth round at Wimbledon in his first Slams since the 2005 US Open, will next face Serbian eighth seed Janko Tipsarevic, who rallied past French wildcard Guillaume Rufin 4-6, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-2.

Trying to break a trend that

has seen women's top seeds fail to take titles at the past seven Grand Slams, Azarenka could be dethroned from the top ranking by Agnieszka Radwanska or Maria Sharapova if she fails to make the final.

Azarenka, who took a singles bronze medal at the London Olympics, broke 133rd-ranked Flipkens in the third and seventh games and took the first set in 27 minutes.



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## Olympics: Gold-medallists face huge bill after London party

BERLIN (AFP) - Germany's men's Olympic hockey team is facing a bill for damages of 500,000 euros (US\$626,516) after the party they held on a cruise ship to celebrate their London 2012 gold medals got out of hand.

After their 2-1 win over Holland saw them retain the Olympic title they won in Beijing, the Germans let off steam on the MS Deutschland in London's West India Quay on August 11 in a party organised by a Berlin-based events firm.

The players are reported to have drained all the alcohol available onboard and pictures in the German media show the squad dousing each other with champagne while downing glasses of beer and smoking cigars.

Glass was broken during the party and the Germany Hockey Association apologised to the ship's captain immediately afterwards, saying they would pick up the tab -- until the bill grew to half a million euros.

The ship's operators say

damages included burns to the fine teak panelling on the Lido deck and broken glass where the 350 guests partied will cost 50,000 euros alone (US\$62,600) to repair.

It costs 75,000 euros (US\$94,000) for each day the ship is out of service and with the damage estimated to take up to six days to repair, the figure of 450,000 (US\$563,918) is a realistic estimate.

"This is a ship on a five-star level with very high quality materials, so damages can quickly become very expensive," a spokeswoman for the ship's owners told the Bild newspaper.

Now the German Hockey Association is bracing itself for the bill with questions being asked whether the body is legally responsible for the actions of its members.

"We have not received any written demands from the shipping company yet and we don't see ourselves as being held responsible, but we will deal with this in a calm and objective manner," said CEO Torsten Bartel.

## Bayern sign Spain's 'star of the future' Martinez



Spain midfielder Javi Martinez signed for Bayern Munich on Wednesday, the club confirmed, in a deal believed to be a new Bundesliga record transfer of around 40 million euros (US\$50.2m). The 23-year-old has been a Bayern target for weeks and terminated his contract with Athletic Bilbao on Wednesday, which allowed him to sign a five-year deal with Bayern until June 2017. The player had a release clause with Athletic to the tune of 40 million euros, but he was responsible for paying it himself, adding huge tax liabilities as a result. "We know he is a very good player, with a strong personality and he has an affinity for Bayern Munich, which he has clearly demonstrated in the last few days, said Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge

AFP/Photo



Swedish cyclist Fredrik Kessiakoff of Astana Pro Team rides during the 11th stage of the Vuelta Tour of Spain. Kessiakoff won the 11th stage of the Tour of Spain, a 39km individual time trial from Cambados to Pontevedra in Galicia. Spaniard Joaquim Rodriguez, of the Katusha team, has just a fingernail's grip on the overall leader's red jersey, however. He now lies one second ahead of compatriot and 2008 Vuelta champion Alberto Contador, back from a two-year drugs ban, and 16 seconds in front of Great Britain's Chris Froome, the runner-up at this year's Tour de France.

AFP/Photo

## REMEMBER

to



Buckle  
up



## Dodgers CF Matt Kemp Hurts Knee In Collision With Wall



DENVER - The Los Angeles Dodgers star center fielder was forced to leave Tuesday night's game against the Colorado Rockies after crashing into the wall in the bottom of the first inning and suffering a right knee bruise.

Kemp, who finished second to Ryan Braun in last year's National League MVP balloting, had collided with wall the day before as well.

He injured himself this time while trying to track down a Josh Rutledge triple. The ball caromed off the wall just before Kemp slammed

into the padding while running full speed and fell backwards onto the warning track.

He stayed down for several minutes as team trainers checked him over. Kemp initially remained in the game following the mishap, but was soon forced to withdraw.

Kemp said he hoped to be back with the Dodgers on today, though manager Don Mattingly expected the slugger to experience aches and pains for several more days.

Kemp, who has missed 51 games this year because of a left hamstring issue, is hitting .337 with 17 home runs and 54 runs batted in this season.

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## NFL: Season to open with replacement refs

NEW YORK (AFP) - The NFL has advised teams it will open the 2012 season next week using replacement officials as its contract dispute with the NFL Referees Association drags on.

US media reported that NFL executive Ray Anderson sent a memo to teams on Wednesday, explaining the plans for regular-season officiating along with details of what the league called "deadlocked" negotiations with officials on a new collective bargaining agreement.

The league locked out officials in June and the ability of

replacement referees to officiate effectively has been questioned during exhibition games.

However, the league insisted in the memo obtained by NFL.com that the replacements "have undergone extensive training and evaluation, and have shown steady improvement during the pre-season."

The regular season begins next Wednesday when the reigning Super Bowl champion New York Giants host the Dallas Cowboys.

"We are not surprised based on Ray Anderson's statements

yesterday that the NFL was not going to reach out to us," the union responded in a statement. "However, this is consistent with the NFL's negotiating strategy which has been 'take it or leave it' and lock them out."

The negotiating stalemate with officials comes a year after the league locked out players from March to July before inking a new contract.

The league says the sides remain separated on economic issues including pay and pension, and non-economic issues involving the league's desire to be able to replace officials it believes are inadequate.

## 2012 Paralympic is ON .....

**continued from page 16**



"Look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious."

The ceremony was billed by organisers as a "celebration of the inspirational spirit of the Paralympic Games that challenges perceptions of human possibility".

Margaret Maughan, Britain's first Paralympic gold medallist at the inaugural 1960 Games, was given the honour

of lighting the cauldron, made of more than 200 "petals" and engraved with the names of participating countries.

Among the 80,000-strong crowd were the queen's grandson Prince William and his wife Catherine, British Prime Minister David Cameron and London Mayor Boris Johnson, with the event broadcast to millions around the world.

A total of 166 countries had been due to take part but the International Paralympic

Committee on Wednesday confirmed that Malawi's team had not travelled to London to compete in what would have been the country's first Para-

nation finish third in the overall medal table behind the United States and China.

Britain is considered the "spiritual home" of the



**The Big Bang**

lympics.

Organisers believe much of the increased domestic interest in the event comes after a successful Olympics for British athletes, which saw the host

Games, as the first recognised sports events for athletes with disabilities was held in Stoke Mandeville, southern England, in 1948.



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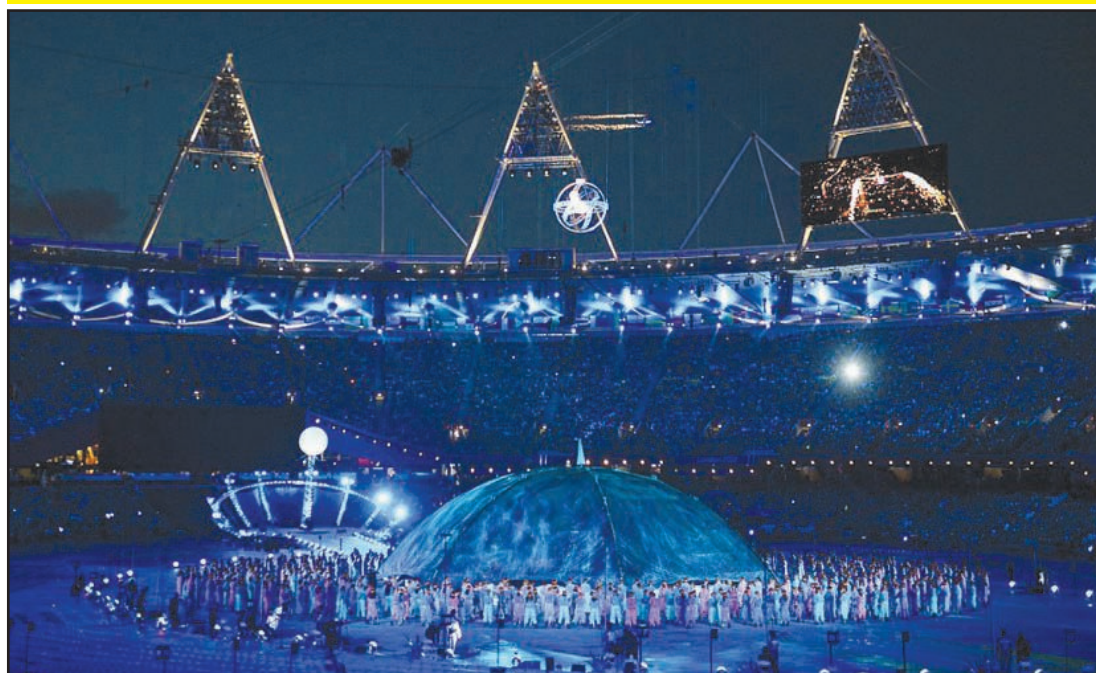
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## 2012 London Paralympic Games is ON



LONDON (AFP) - Queen Elizabeth II on Wednesday officially opened the London Paralympics, at a showpiece ceremony aimed at challenging perceptions about disability and championing the human spirit.

The 86-year-old monarch declared the Games open in a short speech in the traditional curtain-raiser to 11 days of sporting action at an event involving over 3,000 performers preceded by a spectacular fly-past by a disabled pilot.

London 2012 chief Sebastian Coe said he hoped the Games "would be a landmark for people with a disability everywhere, a landmark in the progress of mankind towards the light, towards seeing im-

mense capability and possibility".

The president of the Inter-

of the human spirit" that had "the energy to change each and every one of us".



national Paralympic Committee, Philip Craven, added that the Games were "a celebration

The show began with a rare public appearance by Britain's most famous living scientist,

Stephen Hawking.

Hawking, author of the best-selling "A Brief History of Time" who has motor neuron disease and has been

ory on the creation of the universe about which he has written extensively, to the 18th century "Enlightenment" period and scientific discoveries of



**Voyage of discovery: The exploits of man adventures to the moon featured in the opening ceremony as the audience were guided through the wonders of the cosmos by Stephen Hawking.**

paralysed most of his life, was described by organisers as "the most famous disabled person anywhere on the planet".

He guided a central character on a journey of discovery in a story inspired by William Shakespeare's "The Tempest", taking in the "Big Bang" the-

the modern era.

"We live in a universe governed by rational laws that we can discover and understand," the 70-year-old theoretical physicist said through his voice-synthesised computer.

*continues on page 15*